Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-80. (Canceled)

81. (Currently Amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a sterile tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which **[[**the**]]** a tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which **[[**the**]]** a tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve **[[**and**]]** , the sleeve capable when lengthened of gripping a tube to exert a compressive gripping force evenly distributed around the tube and along a length of the tube such that the sleeve will further lengthen in response to movement of the tube to increase the compressive gripping force, and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sterile tubular sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall that includes a plurality of filaments helically woven to ~~defining~~ define a plurality of openings in the wall and wherein the sterile tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient~~, wherein the sterile tubular sleeve comprises a substantially uniform braided sleeve that exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube~~.

82. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

83. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 82, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

84. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.

85. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

86. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 85, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

87. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

88. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

89. (Cancelled) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

90. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

91. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81, wherein said tube secured to a patient is a catheter.

92. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81 wherein the tubular sleeve has a ring at at least one end of the sleeve, the ring surrounding the first aperture or the second aperture and the ring being operable to shorten the length of the sleeve.

93. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81 wherein the tubular sleeve is of filamentary construction and has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar surrounding the first aperture or the second aperture and the collar holding together the free ends of the filaments making up the sleeve.

94. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 81 in combination with a tube, said tube being secured to a patient by said fastener, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient.

95. (Currently Amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which **[[**the**]]** a tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which **[[**the**]]** a tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve **[[**and**]]** , the sleeve capable when lengthened of gripping a tube to exert a compressive gripping force evenly distributed around the tube and along a length of the tube such that the sleeve will further lengthen in response to movement of the tube to increase the compressive gripping force, and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall that includes a plurality of filaments helically woven to ~~defining~~ define a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, ~~wherein the tubular sleeve comprises a substantially uniform braided sleeve that exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube~~ and wherein the tubular sleeve has a ring at at least one end of the sleeve, the ring surrounding the first aperture or the second aperture and the ring being operable to shorten the length of the sleeve.

96. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

97. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

98. (Canceled) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

99. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

100. (Previously Presented) A fastener according to claim 95 wherein the tubular sleeve has a ring at each end of the sleeve, the rings surrounding the first aperture and the second aperture respectively.